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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

1844.

No. 43.

January 8.

SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, LL.D., President, in the Chair.

William Henry and John Neville, Esquires, were elected Members of the Academy.

The President read a letter from the Rev. James Kennedy Bailie, D.D., presenting his "*Fasciculus Inscriptionum Græcarum*."

The special thanks of the Academy were given to Dr. Bailie for his donation.

Robert Ball, Esq., read a notice of the Means used by the Ancients for attaching Handles to the Stone and Metal Implements called Celts.

Mr. Ball stated that many years since, the lamented Dean Dawson proposed to him to put handles to the four most remarkable forms of celts, with a view of discovering the probable manner in which these instruments were used. He accordingly did affix the handles (exhibited to the Academy), and they appeared satisfactorily to answer the question: but recent observation has convinced him that in two at least of these hypothetical mountings he was incorrect, as proved, he thought, by a stone celt mounted, which was a short time since brought from a mine in Mexico, and an iron one—a war weapon—brought a few weeks since from Little Fish Bay in Africa. As he deemed the subject one of interest to

antiquarians, he described as follows the mounting of the recent implements alluded to, which, he conceived, may fairly be assumed as the manner used in olden time for celts of similar form.

The Mexican stone celt (No. 1) (which is the property of Mrs. Lyle) was mounted by placing a slender rod at each side

of it, in the direction of its length, so that the larger ends of the rods would have overlapped each other about two inches, had they not been separated by the body of the instrument; a small cord was then loosely wound round the ends of the rod and the included celt: when thus arranged, the smaller ends of the rods were brought together and tied, forming what sailors call a Spanish Windlass. The elasticity of the rods keeping a constant strain, makes a more effective handle than it would appear possible to form by ordinary tying, and with much less expense of time and trouble. The iron celt (No. 2) kindly given to Mr. Ball by Captain Adams, R.N., is fixed in the bend of a club formed like a Scotch golf stick; by this arrangement, while the iron is so fixed that a stroke serves to make it only the faster, the effectiveness of the weapon is much increased by the weight of the knob at its end. The accompanying figures illustrate the foregoing.

Mr. Ball observed that these were, he thought, proofs of the value of seeking explanation of antiquarian difficulties, by observing the analogies afforded by the less civilized portions of the human race, rather than by indulging in hypothetical fancies.

Mr. Oldham read a brief notice of a stone with Ogham characters in the County of Waterford.

The stone referred to (fig 1) is well known throughout that portion of the country, by the name of Ballyquin stone. It stands on the road to Curraghmore from Carrick-on-Suir, about three miles and a half from that town. This road is comparatively a new one, and the stone has been left standing about three feet from the ditch on the south side. It is a single block of the hard and coarse red conglomerate, so abundant in the neighbourhood, and in the adjoining range of the Commeragh mountains. In height it is eight feet, and tapers gradually but irregularly from about four feet at the base, to about one foot three inches at the top, and is about

2 x 2